

Minutes of the NONPOINT SOURCE TASK FORCE MEETING

Matthew Training Center
Pierre, South Dakota
December 9, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Vallery, SD Wheat, Inc. See attached "sign-in-sheet" for a list of those in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS/REMARKS: Chairman Vallery asked for those in attendance to introduce themselves and state the organization they represent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Angela Ehlers, SD Association of Conservation Districts, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008, meeting; second by Mary Duvall, SD Farm Bureau. Motion carried.

FFY 2008 AVAILABLE 319 FUNDS OVERVIEW: Pete Jahraus, SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR). The amount of 319 funds requested is \$4,343,641 and available funds are estimated at \$2,480,100. The federal appropriation level may not be finalized prior to the DENR and Nonpoint Task Force (NPS) recommendations being presented to the Board of Natural Water Resources at its meeting on January 8-9, 2009. Using the working amount of \$2,480,100 means requests exceed available funds by \$1,863,541.

319 GRANT APPLICATION PRESENTATIONS:

Belle Fourche River Watershed Management and Project Implementation Plan– Segment 4
Total Cost: \$5,127,642 319 Request: \$1,332,365

Project Description: Tim Reich gave an overview of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Project. The Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership is the project sponsor for this 2-year project. This is the fourth segment of seven planned project segments that addresses a cluster of nine TMDLs. Completion of the activities planned for this segment will advance the BMP implementation for TSS pollutants to 36 percent complete. This project will continue implementation of the BMPs identified in the TMDL report for the Belle Fourche River Watershed. These BMPs include irrigation control units, irrigation canal modeling, lining irrigation canals, replacing irrigation ditches with pipelines, installing irrigation sprinkler systems, implementing grazing management systems, and installing riparian vegetation improvements.

Brown County Water Quality Improvement Project – Segment 2

Total Cost: \$2,806,101

319 Request: \$790,800

Project Description: Ryan Smith gave an overview of the Brown County Water Quality Improvement Project. The project will target the reduction of nutrient and sediment loads in tributaries and lakes. During the next two years, project staff will install BMPs to reduce nutrient and sediment load from agricultural runoff, sedimentation to the lakes from shoreline erosion, and provide public education and information. Activities planned include installation of: animal waste management system(s), grazing management, upland habitat improvements, crop rotation/residue management, critical area plantings, alternate watering systems, riparian buffer establishment/restorations, urban BMPs to reduce sedimentation, and an information & education program. Segment 2 will add the Richmond Lake Watershed to the project area.

Developing BMPs to Minimize Water Quality Impacts of Winter Manure Spreading

Total Cost: \$268,395

319 Request: \$161,034

Project Description: Dave German gave an overview of the BMP's to Minimize Water Quality Impacts of Winter Manure Spreading. The nutrient, sediment and bacteria loss at the watershed scale will be monitored by placing flumes at the outlets of each of six small watershed areas. The continuous record of discharge and water quality samples will be used to calculate loads of suspended sediments, nutrients, and fecal coliform loads from each watershed. Different winter manure spreading practices will be compared to evaluate the risk of water quality degradation. The information gained will be used to develop management strategies that more effectively reduce nutrient, sediment, and bacteria loading to surface water and the accelerated eutrophication of lakes and streams in the state.

Lewis and Clark Watershed Implementation Project - Segment 2

Total Cost: \$1,954,446

319 Request: \$825,000

Project Description: Rocky Knippling gave an overview of the Lewis and Clark proposal. This proposal is the second segment of a locally planned multi-year (10-15 year) effort to implement best management practices (BMPs) in the Lewis and Clark Lake watershed and the Lake Andes Watershed. It will help restore water quality to meet designated beneficial uses and address TMDLs to be established for water bodies in these watersheds. In 2006 project segment I initially targeted BMPs only in the 56,000 acre Corsica Lake subwatershed. In 2007 the segment I expansion added the East River portion of the watershed with 747,000 acres. This project, segment II, will properly address and target BMP installation in the entire Lewis and Clark Lake Watershed (1.9 million acres) and will also provide technical and financial assistance to the watershed activities in the Lake Andes Watershed. The Lake Andes Watershed is 95,000 acres and is a tributary of the Missouri River and Lake Francis Case which borders the Lewis and Clark Lake Watershed

Lower James River Watershed Implementation Project - Segment 2

Total Cost: \$1,103,117

319 Request: \$465,000

Project Description: Dave Bartel provided an overview of the Lower James River Watershed Implementation Project (Segment II). This segment will target the reduction of nutrient, sediment, and bacteria loading to the James River, its tributaries and lakes within the watershed. During this proposed three year project, the James River Water Development District will implement BMPs in the watershed and provide education and information to the public. Activities planned will focus on animal waste management systems, grassland, and cropland BMPs, water quality monitoring, and completion of an information and education program.

Northeast Glacial lakes Watershed Improvement & Protection Project – Segment 2

Total Cost: \$1,259,627

319 Request: \$769,442

Project Description: Dennis Skadsen of the Day County Conservation District provided an overview of the project. The project will continue to protect and improve the water quality of northeast South Dakota glacial lakes by implementing best management practices that reduce the amount of fecal coliform bacteria, nutrients, and sediment loads entering project water bodies, and maintaining their assigned beneficial uses. This proposal is the second of several-planned implementation segments. Other lakes and reservoirs will be added to future segments as assessments are completed and needs reevaluated.

DENR Funding Recommendations

Belle Fourche River Watershed Management and Project Implementation Plan – Segment 4

319 Request - \$1,332,365

DENR recommendation: \$655,000

Brown County Water Quality Improvement Project – Segment 2

319 Request - \$790,800

DENR recommendation: \$450,000

Developing BMP's to Minimize Water Quality Impacts on Winter Manure Spreading

319 Request - \$161,034

DENR recommendation: No Funding

Lewis and Clarke Watershed Implementation Project – Segment 2

319 Request - \$825,000

DENR recommendation: \$635,000

Lower James River Watershed Implementation Project – Segment 2

319 Request - \$465,000
DENR recommendation: \$390,000

Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Improvement & Protection Project – Segment 2

319 Request - \$769,442
DENR recommendation: \$350,000

NPS Task Force Recommendations

Jay Gilbertson, EDDWD, expressed concerns about the recommendation for the Winter Manure Spreading project. He then made a motion to provide \$100,000 to initiate the program. He suggested that we take \$60,000 from the Belle Fourche River Watershed Project and \$40,000 from the Lewis & Clark Watershed Project by reducing the project management budget for both projects.

Second by Jodi Hickman.

Chairman Vallery called for discussion of the motion.

Chairman Vallery called for a Roll Call Vote.

Six voted for the motion
Eight voted against the motion
Motion failed

Jim Feeney, DENR moved to follow DENR funding recommendations. With the understanding that if the FFY 2009 319 award is less than anticipated the project budgets will be reduced proportional.

Second by Bob Gab, Conservation Commission.

Chairman Vallery called for discussion of the motion.

Chairman Vallery called for a vote on the motion, which was to support the DENR funding recommendations.

Motion Carried

AGENCY REPORTS

SDDA: Brain Scott, SDDA RC&F, gave an update on the status of the November Conservation Commission Grant Round and the Soil Conservation Award Program that was established in the 2008 Legislature. The rules for the new program were approved by the interim rules committee on December 2nd.

DENR: Pat Snyder, Surface Water Program. The Water Management Board canceled the rules hearing on the changes to the Water Quality Standards. The hearing has been rescheduled for the Boards meeting on March 11th and 12th. Jim Feeney, Water Resources Assistance Program, went over proposed legislation to increase fees for DENR administrative activities and to approve special appropriations and expenditure authority for water projects and programs.

Angela Ehlers made a motion that the NPS Task Force recommends to the Governor and the State Legislature that SDCL 46A-1-95 be amended to provide for the continuous appropriation of six million dollars annually for federal Clean Water Act pass-through grant funds under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' nonpoint source program.

Second by Joan Clarke.

Motion carried.

GF&P: Bill Smith said they would have more to report on the status of the James River CREP at the next meeting.

SDACD: Angela Ehlers provided an update on her Board of Directors meeting. She also reported that they are in the process of doing an evaluation of the next steps in the review of the Conservation Delivery System.

OTHER ITEMS: Dr. Dennis Clarke, retired DENR senior scientist who managed the department's nonpoint source implementation program, was presented an EPA Environmental Achievement Award. The award was presented by DENR Secretary Steve Pirner on behalf of EPA. The award recognized Clarke "for his lifetime of dedication to sustained agriculture and his environmental achievements in helping to improve and protect the waters of the State of South Dakota." It recognized Clarke for his four decades of efforts that have assisted in improving water quality, focusing on better ways of livestock ranching, implementing better ways to manage wastes, and showing livestock ranchers how to make their efforts more economically viable while also protecting the environment.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next meeting date will be left open for now.

ADJOURN: Chairman Vallery adjourned the meeting.